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REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated January 10, 2008. Claims 1-37 were pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 24 and 26 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 4, 6, 7, 25, 27 and 28 have been amended by rewriting them in independent form, claims 2 and 3 have been amended to depend from claim 4, claims 21 and 23 have been amended to include the features recited in claim 4 as originally filed, and claim 37 has been amended to include the features recited in claim 25 as originally filed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the claim amendments do not introduce new matter or new issues, and entry thereof is requested. Claims 2-4, 6-23, 25 and 27-37 remain pending upon entry of this Amendment, with claims 4, 6, 7, 21, 23, 25, 27, 28 and 37 being in independent form.

The title was objected to as purportedly not sufficiently descriptive. The specification was objected to as having informalities.

The title and the specification have been reviewed and amended to address the formal matters noted in the Office Action.

Withdrawal of the objection to the title and the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 23, 24, 26 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as purportedly anticipated by Kumada (US 2002/0145744 A1). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Kumada in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,064,860 to Balasubramanian. Claim 21 and 22 were rejected under as being purportedly unpatentable over Kumada in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,870,636 to Kulkarni.

The Office Action also indicated that claims 4, 6-20, 25 and 27-36 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form

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including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 24 and 26 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 4, 6, 7, 25, 27 and 28 have been amended by rewriting them in independent form, independent claims 21 and 23 have been amended to include the features recited in claim 4 as originally filed, and independent claim 37 has been amended to include the features recited in claim 25 as originally filed. Claims 2, 3 and 8-20 depend from claim 4. Claim 22 depends from claim 21. Claims 29-36 depend from claim 25.

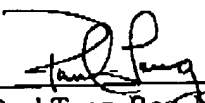
It is submitted that independent claims 4, 6, 7, 21, 23, 25, 27, 28 and 37, and the claims depending therefrom, are now allowable.

In view of the claim amendments and remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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